

Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NEA-10 CCO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

ACDA-19 IO-14 MC-02 EUR-25 DRC-01 /144 W

----- 115335

O 152055Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7239

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2288

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECT TEXT OMISSIONS THROUGHOUT)

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, SU

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

REF: (A) STATE 203685; (B) 203684 AND (C) 203698

1. AMB MCCLOSKEY CONFIRMATION USG ARMS RESUPPLY EFFORT CARRIED BBC NEWS HEARS SEVEN P.M. LOCAL OCT. 15 AND WAS LEAD ITEM BBC EIGHT P.M. NEWS. SINCE GOS THUS AWARE OUR AIRLIFT AND DEPT HAD CONFIRMED FACT TO PRESS, I TELEPHONE ACTING FONMIN AND MININFO MUSA IN ACCORDANCE PARA ONE REFTEL AND SAID WOULD LIKE SEE THEM EITHER LATER TONIGHT OR TOMORROW ON SUBJECT PRESIDENT NIMEIRI HAD RAISED WITH ME OCT. 13 (KHARTOUM 2274). MUST SAID HE IN HIS OFFICE, HAD JUST BEEN TALKING WITH NIMEIRI RE "CHANGE IN AMERICAN POLICY" AND REQUESTED I COME RIGHT OVER.

2. FOUND MUSA IN HIS MININFO OFFICE MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS. WE HAD RELAXED ANF FRANK HALF-HOUR DISCUSSION. I BEGAN BY SAYING REGRETTED MY FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING MUST BE ON SOMER SUBJECT. I HAD COME OUT TO WORK FOR MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

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GOS/USG RELATIONS. EVENTS WERE MOVING RAPIDLY IN AREA, BUT I

STILL INTENDED TO WHAT FEASIBLE TO NURTURE MUTUALLY HELPFUL BILATERAL TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVTS. MUST INDICATED HE SHARED THIS INTENTION. I THEN WENT OVER FOR HIM CAREFULLY GUIDANCE IN REFTELS (A) AND (B), STRESSING THAT SECRETARY HAD BEEN MAKING MAJOR EFFORT RECENT DAYS DEVELOP CONSENSUS WHICH WOULD HAVE BROUGHT END TO HOSTILITIES ON BASIS OF PRESENT DISPOSITION OF FORCES. SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN LACK SUCCESS THIS EFFORT HAD BEEN SOVIET FAILURE COOPERATE AS WE WOULD HAVE WISHED. USSR RESUPPLY EFFORT HAD PUT US IN VERY CORNER I HAD MENTIONED TO PRESIDENT. WE THEREFORE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO UNDERTAKE SIMILAR AIRLIFT RESUPPLY EFFORT TO ISRAEL. WE KNEW THIS WOULD BE CRITICIZED IN AREA AND THEREFORE WISHED MAKE CLEAR THAT, AS SOON AS EFFECTIVE CEASE-FIRE ACHIEVED, WE PREPARED HALT OUR AIRLIFT OPERATION IF SOVIETS DID SAME.

3. MUSA REPLIED HE COULD SEE LOGIC OUR POSITION BUT THAT IT COULD NOT BE EXPLAINED TO ARAB MASSES. WHEN PRESIDENT NIMEIRI HAD JUST CALLED HIM ABOUT MATTER, MUSA HAD TOLD HIM THIS ACTION BY USG SHOULD HARDLY COME AS SURPRISE. USG HAD ALWAYS INDICATED IT WOULD SUPPORT ISRAEL AS NECESSARY. ONLY DEVELOPMENT WAS THAT WE WERE NOW SAYING PUBLICLY WHAT HAD BEEN FACTUAL SITUATION ANYWAY (FYI MUSA INDICATED HE HAD SOUGHT MODERATE NIMEIRI'S REACTION IN THIS FASHION END FYI). AS TO CEASE-FIRE ON BASIS PRESENT DISPOSITION OF FORCES, MUSA OPINED EGYPTIANS DID NOT WANT "TO WALK ON THROUGH THE DESERT" AND WOULD BE WILLING SETTLE FOR WHAT THEY HAD, WERE IT NOT FOR SYRIAN SITUATION. ISRAELI ADVANCES THERE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR CAIRO AGREE TO CEASE-FIRE AND MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR MODERATE STATES SUCH AS JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA TO PLAY ANY USEFUL ROLE. SOME "GESTURE" RE GOLAN HEIGHTS WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL. I NOTED ISRAEL HAD PUBLICLY MENTIONED WILLINGNESS CONSIDER ANY CEASE-FIRE PROPOSAL AND WONDERED IF THAT WERE NOT SORT OF "GESTURE" MUSA HAD IN MIND. HE RESPONDED THAT SOMETHING INDICATING EVENTUAL WILLINGNESS WITHDRAW TO 1967 CEASE-FIRE LINES WOULD BE MORE WELCOME. MUSA CONCLUDED HE WOULD INFORM NIMEIRI OUR TALK.

4. COMMENT: IN LIGHT REFTELS, NIMEIRI'S EARLIER APPROACH TO US AND FACT MUSA, AS ACTING FONMIN AND MININFO, IN EFFECT RUNNING COMMAND POST TO KEEP PRESIDENT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS, I DEEMED IT WISE USE AMMUNITION PROVIDED REFTELS SOONER RATHER
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THAN LATE, AFTER GOS REACTION HAS JELLED (WITH RAMADHAN HOURS, SENIOR GOVT OFFICIALS CARRYING ON NORMALLY HERE THROUGH MIDNIGHT LOCAL TIME AT EARLIEST.) ON RETURNING EMBASSY TO DRAFT FOREGOING I WAS SHOWN STATE 203889 (MCCLOSKEY TRANSCRIPT NOT YET RECEIVED). WHILE I WOULD NOT HAVE ACTED HAD THIS ARRIVED IN TIME, I NEVER-THELESS BELIEVE GUIDANCE REFTELS WAS TIMELY AND USEFUL IN ASSURING OUR SIDE OF CASE CONSIDERED AS GOS FORMULATES ITS OWN ATTITUDE THROUGH NIGHT. MUSA MADE NO EFFORT CRITICIZE OUR

DECISION, AND HIS APPARENT EFFORTS EXERT MODERATING INFLUENCE
ON NIMEIRI SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED. WE WILL REPORT INITIAL
PUBLIC REACTION OUR RESUPPLY EFFORTS SOON AS AVAILABLE OCT. 16
AND WILL MAKE THEN ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT MAY SEEM DESIRABLE
RE ADDITIONAL APPROACHES PER STATE 203889.
BREWER

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NNN

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